



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

# NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Toxic Substances Control

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## **\$765,000 Braito Bill filed by Attorney General for Collection**

(SACRAMENTO) --- The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced that the State Attorney General filed a complaint in Federal Court for Cost Recovery of \$765,443 (plus interest) of outstanding debt from Granite Management Corporation (Granite) for work completed by the DTSC at the Braito Landfill Site in Benicia. The debt was tallied from five DTSC invoices, which represent billings from October 1, 1997 through December 31, 1999.

Under a 1995 Consent Order, DTSC has been overseeing testing and cleanup work at the former Braito Landfill and responding to the community's concerns regarding potential health hazards associated with contaminated surface and subsurface soils. Under the order, DTSC agreed to submit bills and Granite (the responsible party) agreed to pay quarterly.

"Our first commitment is to protect public health that is why DTSC has continued its work at this site. However, both State cleanup law and fairness mandate that responsible parties pay for DTSC oversight costs. DTSC has committed significant time and resources to this project and must be reimbursed for our costs," said Ed Lowry, DTSC Director.

DTSC will continue ongoing work that includes review of environmental impact reports prepared by the City of Benicia, preparation of a Remedial Action Plan, review of design plans, oversight of remedial actions, public participation and project management.

DTSC requested the Attorney General file the civil lawsuit after many months of routine billing failed to result in payment.

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***DTSC is one of the six boards and departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting reduction.***